

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /038 W

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R 290813Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4718

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3543

BEIRUT PASS TO LABATT MATTSON

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, JO

SUBJECT: AAFLI ACTIVITIES IN MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) STATE 029421 (B) AMMAN 1098 (NOTAL), 1389, AND 1696
(C) BEIRUT 4995

1. THIS POST HAS GONE ON RECORD SEVERAL TIMES AS SUPPORTING AAFLI'S REGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN FY 75. FREQUENT VISITS TO AMMAN BY AAFLI REPS HAVE CONFIRMED THE CLOSENESS OF AAFLI TIES WITH JORDANIAN LABOR AND THE EAGERNESS OF THE JORDANIAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT. BEIRUT REFTEL AND SIGNALS FOR EGYPTIAN LABOR SUGGESTING A POSSIBLE AAFLI OPENING TO CAIRO HAVE UNDERSCORED THE REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ORGANIZATION. I WISH TO PUT FORWARD MY VIEW THAT THESE OPPORTUNITIES CAN BEST BE EXPLOITED BY THE ASSIGNMENT TO AMMAN OF AAFLI REP WITH REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, PARTICULARLY LEBANON AND EGYPT.

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2. A NUMBER OF JORDANIAN LABOR LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED

THEIR DESIRE FOR A REGIONAL AAFLI OFFICE IN AMMAN. MOREOVER, WITH ONE CLINC IN OPERATION, ONE SOON TO OPEN, AND TWO PLANNED, PLUS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM AND HOUSING STUDY, SIGNIFICANT JUSTIFICATION EXISTS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF AN AAFLI REP IN AMMAN WITH RESPONSIBILITIES EVEN FOR JORDAN ALONE. WHILE PERIODIC VISITS BY AAFLI REPS TO JORDAN PERFORM A USEFUL FUNCTION, A MORE PERMANENT PRESENCE IS REQUIRED TO CAPITALIZE ON NEW OPPORTUNITIES HERE. AMMAN DUTIES WOULD, HOWEVER, PERMIT HIM TO PERFORM REGIONAL ROLE AND TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN AREA.

3. AS TO THE TIMING OF A POSSIBLE TRANSFER TO AMMAN, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER MIGHT BE A CONVENIENT DATE TO AIM AT SINCE THIS PERIOD WOULD FOLLOW THE FORTHCOMING ILO CONFERENCE AND PROVIDE A DOVE-TAILING OF LOCAL NEEDS (FOR EXAMPLE, CLINC EXPANSION) WITH COMMENCEMENT OF MORE EXTENSIVE REGIONAL DUTIES. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEM, WE BELIEVE AAFLI SHOULD OBTAIN FORMAL CLEARANCE WITH MINISTER OF LABOR FOR BASING REGIONAL REP HERE.

4. EMBASSY BEIRUT (REFTEL C) HAS NOTED THAT AAFLI IS NOW AT A CROSSROADS, READY TO RESPOND TO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, I SECOND THE RECOMMENDATION OF AMBASSADOR GODLEY THAT A REGIONAL AAFLI REP BE ASSIGNED TO AMMAN. PICKERING

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